GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3251
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
TELEPHONE FACILITY
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages where telephone facility has been provided and the number of villages where this facility has not been provided in Gujarat and Maharashtra States as on January 31, 2001, separately, district-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide the said facility in the remaining villages of these States;

(c) the number of telephones lying out of order at present in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, he reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these telephones are likely to be made functional?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Requisite information as on January 31,2001 is available in ANNEXURE -I for Gujarat and in ANNEXURE-II for Maharashtra.

(b) M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd. in Gujarat and M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd. in Maharashtra have been entrusted with the responsibility to provide the said facility in remaining villages of these States.

(c) 1246 Village Public Telephones are faulty in Maharashtra as on 10.3.2001.

(d) Reasons include disorientation of RSU(Remote Switching Unit) antenna, batteries getting discharged, solar penels getting damaged, feeder cables being damaged by rats and BSU (Base Station Unit)/RSU cards going faulty. Other reasons for faulty lines are disconnections due to fall of trees, earthing due to break of insulators, instrument faults and damage of cables.

(e) About 500 village public telephones are irreparable and are required to be replaced by Wireless in Local Loop systems progressively by 2002 subject to availability of funds. Normal telephone faults are cleared within two days.